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THE SCHOOL IS SET TO INJECT SOME COMMERCIAL THINKING INTO THE RESEARCH IDEAS COMING OUT OF EDINBURGH'S BIOQUARTER

The business doctors

The University of Edinburgh's Business School is joining forces with the College of Medicine and Veterinary Medicine (CMVM) to encourage commercial thinking among researchers at Edinburgh's BioQuarter. BioQuarter, set up by the University in partnership with Scottish Enterprise, the NHS and Alexandria Real Estate Equities Inc, is an initiative designed to enhance the long-term growth prospects of Scotland's life sciences sector.

Edinburgh has a tradition of medical innovation that stretches back more than 500 years. That tradition continues today, with Edinburgh ranked number one in the UK for veterinary medicine and number one for hospital-based clinical research. The standard of excellence continues with the opening of the new Scottish Centre for Regenerative Medicine (SCRM) in May 2012. This new building holds 230 researchers and offers labs with the capacity to culture stem cells for clinical use. These facilities are being used to help discover treatments for conditions such as Parkinson's disease, Motor Neurone Disease and Multiple Sclerosis where there is currently no cure.

INNOVATE AND WIN

BioQuarter was established to link Edinburgh's leading-edge research with commercial enterprise. 'Our aim at

Edinburgh BioQuarter links leading-edge research with commercial enterprise



'GIVEN THE MIX OF SCIENTIFIC TALENT AND FACILITIES WE'VE GOT AVAILABLE AT BIOQUARTER, THIS IS AN EXCITING TIME FOR US'

Dr Adam J Bock

BioQuarter is to find commercial applications for some of the world-class research that's going on here in Edinburgh,' said James Wood, Head of Marketing and Communication at Edinburgh BioQuarter. 'So far, we've announced a major collaboration with GlaxoSmithKline for acute pancreatitis, and we've also spun out three companies – NeuroORG, ipSOX Ltd and i2eye Diagnostics, creators of the world's first visual field analyser for children.'



this year – and there are still two weeks to go before the competition deadline’, James said. ‘We’re hoping to see an uplift against last year’s total of 25 entries.’

A MEETING OF MINDS

Alongside the Innovation competition, the Business School is working with BioQuarter to foster a wider culture of commercialisation among researchers. Dr Bock has actively contributed to this process based on his prior research and entrepreneurial experience. He is the co-founder of three medical device firms spun out of university research in the United States, and is the co-author (with Professor Gerry George of Imperial College) of *Inventing Entrepreneurs* (Prentice-Hall 2008), which describes the entrepreneurial journeys of academic scientists that participate in the commercialisation of their own innovations.

Working with the Centre for Entrepreneurship Research, BioQuarter launched the Director’s Innovation Forum, targeting a limited number of senior researchers to discuss the commercial implications of their work. To reach a wider audience, BioQuarter also launched a series of quarterly meetings that bring together the research and industrial community: the BioQuarter Commercialisation Seminar series.

‘CMVM represents one of the world’s leading life science research centres,’ explained Adam. ‘And the University already has a strong history of supporting entrepreneurship and enterprise. BioQuarter represents an extremely high-potential opportunity to increase the University’s research, teaching, social, and commercial impact.’

BioQuarter plans to add bi-monthly informal networking sessions to this mix in the months ahead, bringing together life sciences professionals from across Scotland at the BioQuarter site. Adam added: ‘Taken together, we’re seeking to create an entrepreneurial ecosystem here at BioQuarter – getting ideas from the lab bench, developing them into companies or licensing opportunities, and then presenting these to investors following a period of incubation.’

‘Given the mix of scientific talent and facilities we’ve got available at BioQuarter, this is an exciting time for us – and a great time to be involved in the commercialisation of scientific research.’

WANT TO KNOW MORE?

For more information on Edinburgh BioQuarter, go to: www.edinburghbioquarter.com or follow BioQuarter on Twitter @EdinburghBQ

PhD society is a success

NEW GROUP SUPPORTS THE RESEARCH OF PHD STUDENTS

One year on and the Doctoral Society is going from strength to strength. Stemming from a call led by PhD Programme Director Dr Neil Pollock, to stimulate and develop an involved doctoral community at the centre of the School, the Doctoral Society pilot was launched under the stewardship of current PhD students, Bing Wu Berberich, Elric Honoré and Abdus Sobhan.

The three main objectives for the first year were to develop an active and vibrant academic ethos; nurturing networks across subject groups and across schools and stimulating the MSc in Research, MPhil, and PhD student community. By large, these goals would not have been achieved without the participation of the study group representatives and the social convenor team, who have helped shape the PhD experience.

Ranging from the new student-led complementary programme to the first year induction; great cross-school social events such as the screening of *PhD: The Movie*; a performance-packed Open Mic night and a great team-building day of paint-balling, the social diary for doctoral students at the School is certainly busy.

The New Directions in Management seminars, working lunches and ad-hoc training workshops have also been hugely popular and are shaping new initiatives for the doctoral cohort, such as the development of a new doctoral-led publication as a testimony of the research being carried out in the School.

The highlight of the events calendar will be PhD Day 2012, which is running over two days (24/25 May). The first day will be aimed at new researchers presenting projected work with a focus on peer feedback and advice. However, the second day (25 May) is open to a wider audience, particularly faculty and alumni, as this will be the platform for final year doctoral students to present their work and the areas of industry it applies to. It will be a celebration of the academic community, within the Business School and beyond.

WANT TO KNOW MORE?

If you are interested in being involved in activities including the PhD Day, please contact the Society on ds.uebs@gmail.com or follow them on Twitter @DoctoralSociety



BioQuarter’s activities have been complemented by the expertise of the Business School’s Centre for Entrepreneurship Research (CER). Although CER has primarily supported research and teaching on entrepreneurial topics, it now provides a mechanism to build enterprise capacity at the College of Medicine and Veterinary Medicine. One of the first capacity-building systems is BioQuarter’s recently launched Innovation competition.

Launched in 2011 with assistance from Dr Adam J Bock of the Business School, BioQuarter’s Innovation competition netted 25 applications in its first year, with four of the ten finalists now having turned their scientific innovations into fully-fledged companies. James explained: ‘We want to widen the number of academics we’re working with on the commercial application of their research, which is why we created our Innovation competition.’

For 2012, BioQuarter is seeking to widen the net further, reaching out to the Colleges of Science and Engineering and Informatics for new business ideas that will benefit human and animal health.

‘So far, we’ve had some fantastic ideas again